

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 1, and cancel Claims 5-9, without prejudice, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising at least a perpendicular magnetic recording layer and a backing layer backing said perpendicular magnetic recording layer, said backing layer having an in-plane magnetization,

characterized in that said backing layer is formed of a ferrimagnetic material having a compensation temperature in the vicinity of a recording/reproducing temperature in which reproducing of magnetic information is made from said perpendicular magnetic recording layer,

wherein said ferromagnetic ferrimagnetic backing layer has an easy axis in an in-plane direction.

2. (Original) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said recording/reproducing temperature is -20 to +100°C.

3. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said ferrimagnetic material is any of an alloy of GdFe, an alloy of DyFe and a garnet ferrite.

4. (Original) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that said perpendicular magnetic recording layer is any of a single layer perpendicular magnetic film or a multilayer perpendicular magnetic film.

5.-10. (Cancelled)